

## 2016 Minutes

- **2016 Annual Crook County Fire Fighters Business Meeting Minutes February 17, 2016 in the Crook County Community Room**
- The business portion of the meeting was called to order by Advisory Board President Dan Grace at 7:00pm.
- **Reading of the 2015 Minutes**
  - Motion to accept the minutes as read was made by John D Davis, seconded by Dallas Rolf. Motion passed unanimously.
- **USFS Report**
  - Chris Zoller, Fire Management Officer from the USF gave a report. Chris Huhnerkock is the Assistant, and Chris H. and Trevor Papenfuss are also Fire Ops Specialists.
  - The USFS wants to continue the great relationship they have with the county firefighters. They are willing to help with any training, and the Crook County Firefighters are welcome to come to theirs.
- **Wyoming State Forestry Report**
  - Dick Terry gave a report.
    - We lost Bill Kohlbrand a year ago; Dick has taken that position on now. Jonathan Sloan is the Assistant District Forester.
  - The Fire Wranglers ceased to exist, but there is an increase in the Smoke Busters due to this.
  - The Fuel Management Officer is new and has worked with the BLM office in Rawlins, Dick couldn't remember the name.
  - The Fire Trainer and Insect management positions are vacant as well, there have been many turnovers.
  - Pine Beetles
    - Red Tree counts are a year behind, those we see faded in 2014 (3-1) increase. Some of this is due to the Black Buttes and Inyan Kara not being treated, and the roadless areas where the beetle numbers increased. The cold snap in November 2014 helped cause beetle death, which will help slow the progress.
    - Future funding is unsure due to the state economy.

- There will be a Saws class (S212) held May 20-22, 2016 in Newcastle. You can sign up on the website or call, or even just show up.
- Please call for help with fires, don't worry about the cost, most are no cost or very low cost.
- **Old Business**
  - Red card information was sent to the state, they are working on them. About 50 Red Cards were checked by Gari before he retired. Jody Wheeler is working on them.
  - RT-130 class rosters are needed.
- **Strata Report**
  - Nikolas Roche from Strata gave a report.
  - Operations started in December. Shipping will begin soon from Oshoto to the Pumpkin Buttes (next 2 weeks-month). They have been talking with First Responders in the area and Gillette.
  - This is a low-level radioactive substance. It is placarded as radioactive and with 2912 label on the trailer. Fire fighters are encouraged to fight the fire and not to worry about contamination, because it is too low level. Please provide care to the driver if there is a crash, Strata will come clean up the spill.
  - The trailer is a water trailer type, long cylinder with reinforced ribs to haul the product in.
- **Fire Warden Report**
  - Fire Warden Jeff Garman gave a report.
  - There were 42 fires in 2015 that burned 598.75 acres.
  - The trucks are in fairly good shape, some are being worked on now.
  - We are less than halfway through the budget, unless we have fires starting early.
- **New Business**
  - NIMS (National Incident Management System) Compliance needs to be followed and completed if it hasn't been done since 2008. If you take a NIMS class, print off the certificate and get it to Jeff.
  - Oshoto Fire Hall
    - The grant is due in Cheyenne at the SLIB (State Land and Investment Board) office on February 18 at 5pm. About \$13,000.00 worth of fire donations are going towards this project.
  - Other donations of about \$6,600.00 have been used towards radio purchases.
- **Emergency Management Report**
  - Melanie Wilmer gave a report.
  - The commissioners gave permission to pursue Code Red and IPAWS for the county as long as a grant for funding due April 1, 2016 is approved through

Homeland Security. The program will be run out of the Sheriff's Office dispatch center.

- American Red Cross needs volunteers in the area, see their website for more information.

- **Advisory Board Report**

- President Dan Grace said there was no report to give, and this is his last meeting.
- Dallas Rolf asked the commissioners where they are in the decision of Fire Warden. Commissioner Kelly Dennis said they are anticipating a possible decision at the April meeting to either continue with Jeff Garman as the Warden or look at hiring a Warden.
- There are 3 open positions on the board – President, ½ term left by Tom McDonald, and Member at Large.
  - Nominations were made.
    - Doug Leis nominated Will West to retain his position. He also nominated Fred Devish. Bob Latham nominated Gari Gill. Bonita Carlson nominated Sully Simons. Rick Happenstall motioned that nominations cease. Bonita Carlson seconded.
    - Votes were cast and collected. They were counted and recorded by Melanie Wilmer with assistance from Jeff Garman, and Clint and Twitter Westover.
    - Will West received 38 votes. Gari Gill received 30 votes. Sully Simons received 15 votes. Fred Devish received 41 votes. Mr. Bojangles received 1 vote. Fred, Will and Gari will be on the advisory board.
- Will West thanked Dan Grace and Lee Hauber for their years of service. The new members will begin their term at the March meeting, and elections will be held for those open positions then.
- Gari Gill was presented a custom rifle as a retirement and thank you gift from numerous Zones and individuals.
- Fred Devish motioned to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Twitter Westover seconded, motion passed.
- Next Meeting: February 15, 2017 6pm Basement

Respectfully Submitted,  
Melanie Wilmer  
Fire Warden Secretary